Privatisation of Higher Education

†*486. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Economic Survey presented by the Finance Minister on the 28th February, 2000 a recommendation has been made to privatise higher education, if so, whether Government are considering to privatise the higher education;

(b) if so, what would be Government's decision in the matter and by when it would be taken; and

(c) from which date Government's decision in this regard would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no specific mention in the Economic Survey 1999-2000 about privatisation of higher education. Economic Survey, however, mentions that the Government will gradually increase the governmental and non-governmental spending on Education upto 6% of GDP.

The Government had introduced the Private Universities (Establishment & Regulation) Bill, 1995 in Rajya Sabha to provide for establishment and incorporation of self-financing Universities. Further appropriate action for enactment of the pending legislation will be taken in due course. No time-limit can be specified at this stage.

Appointment of Accused Medical Superintendent

*487. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms prescribed for appointment as Medical Superintendent of AIIMS; and

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that a person who was caught red-handed while accepting bribe, has been appointed as M.S. of R.P. Centre of Opthalmic Science at AIIMS; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The post of Medical Superintendent at AIIMS is a direct recruitment post. As and when the post of Medical Superintendent at AIIMS is vacant, it is advertised in all leading National dailies and also notified to the Indian High Commission in U.K. and the Indian Embassy in USA. The applications received are scrutinized by an Internal Screening Committee which recommends candidates to be called for interview. The candidates are interviewed by a Standing Selection Committee set up by the Institute Body. The recommendations of the Standing Selection Committee are placed before the Governing Body (Appointing Authority) for its decision.

(b) On 20th July, 1998, the Anti-Corruption Branch of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi arrested the Medical Superintendent of AIIMS, New Delhi on alleged charges of asking for and receiving illegal gratification from a supplier.

The Institute obtained the opinion of Central Vigilance Commission and the ministry of Law in this matter through the Department of Health. On 22nd march, 2000 the Institute revoked the suspension of the official concerned and posted him as Medical Superintendent at R.P. Centre for Opthalmic Sciences, subject to ratification by the Governing Body. The Governing Body, in its meeting held on 03.04.2000, considered the matter and in accordance with the decisions taken theirin, again placed this official under suspension *vide* order dated 3rd April, 2000. Further, sanction for prosecutionnwas also communicated to the Anti-Corruption Branch, Government of NCT of Delhi on 4th April, 2000.

The official concerned has since filed a Writ Petition in the High Court of Delhi and the matter is subjudice.

Gauge Conversion in Orissa

*488 SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for Gauge Conversion from Orissa pending with Government;